

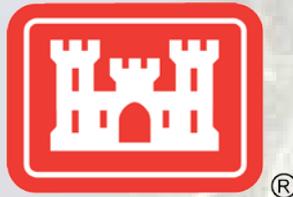
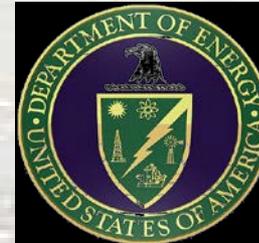
Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force



FEMA



Task Force Membership



FEMA



Vision and Mission of the Task Force

- **Vision**

- That the economic, environmental, and societal values of floodplains are protected and flood-prone communities are resilient and sustainable

- **Mission**

- The Task Force will promote, support, and encourage agencies to formulate and implement programs and policies that:
 - reduce the loss of life and property caused by floods
 - protect and restore natural resources and functions of floodplains

A Unified National Program for Floodplain Management

- **1968 – National Flood Insurance Act, section 1302(c) specified that a “unified national program for floodplain management” be prepared and submitted to the Congress**
- **1975 – US Water Resources Council establishes Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force (TVA, Agriculture, USACE, Commerce, Energy, HUD, Interior, Transportation, EPA, FEMA with States represented by ASFPM as an observer)**
- **1982 – OMB designated FEMA as lead for FIFM-TF**
- **1976, 1979, 1986, & 1994 – TF released UNP reports**



Recent Federal Collaborations

- **Pre-Katrina**
 - **Intergovernmental Flood Risk Management Committee (with ASFPM and NAFSMA)**
 - **Interagency Levee Policy Committee**
 - **Post Katrina – Ad-Hoc Coordination (FEMA – Corps)**
- **Post Disaster teams (Katrina; Midwest)**
 - **National Committee on Levee Safety**
 - **Silver Jackets/Recovery Task Forces**
 - **RiskMAP**
 - **Bi-lateral and tri-lateral Federal agency coordination**
 - **Informal re-activation of the Task Force (2008)**

Why Reestablish the Task Force?

Increasing flood losses in US and impacts on natural resources and functions of floodplains caused by population growth and development

- **Provide a forum for Federal coordination on floodplain management issues**
- **Develop common objectives and approaches among Federal agencies when implementing water resource authorities and programs**
- **Improve communication across the whole community**

Goals and Objectives of the Task Force

• **Goal 1: Public Safety**

- **Protect lives, property, and cultural assets through effective implementation of sound floodplain management programs and policies by all Federal agencies**
 - **Objective 1.1: Further the implementation of risk reduction measures that minimize exposure and reduce flood losses in the floodplain**
 - **Objective 1.2: Provide incentives and disincentives to motivate society's participation in implementing risk reduction measures**
 - **Objective 1.3: Encourage states to develop and implement floodplain management and hazard mitigation plans that include a full range of potential flood events**

Goals and Objectives of the Task Force

- **Goal 2: Sustain the Nation's Floodplain Resources, Functions, and Services**
 - **Protect and restore the natural resources and beneficial functions of floodplains, and the services they provide.**
 - **Objective 2.1: Increase stakeholder awareness and understanding of the significant economic and environmental benefits that society derives from naturally functioning floodplains and associated natural resources**
 - **Objective 2.2: Promote policies and programs that provide incentives for protecting and restoring the natural resources and functions of floodplains, and discourage policies and actions that degrade or destroy functioning floodplains**
 - **Objective 2.3: Where development in the floodplain cannot be avoided, promote uses and development practices that: 1) are compatible with natural floodplain functions, 2) minimize adverse impacts on floodplain resources and services, and 3) do not increase flood risk**

Goals and Objectives of the Task Force

• **Goal 3: Economic Vitality**

- **Promote and sustain economic benefits of floodplains with minimal degradation to the natural environment while limiting flood risk**
 - **Objective 3.1: Establish standards across the government for consistent valuations of environmental benefits and services**
 - **Objective 3.2: Provide financial incentives to strive for minimal impact on the natural environment, both specifically in business practices and generally, to be mindful of the carbon/energy footprint on people, property, and plants**
 - **Objective 3.3: Promote incentives for regional planning that incorporate low flood risk and sustainable development practices such as non-structural flood damage reduction**

Work Plan Activities

- 1. Assess impacts and barriers of Federal programs with regard to achieving the goals of floodplain management**
- 2. Conduct Foresight-style study**
- 3. Assess value of environmental services**
- 4. Review/update EO 11988**
- 5. Review/update Unified National Program**
- 6. Develop policy and guidance to encourage sustainable development**
- 7. Conduct public listening session(s) on scope and focus areas**
- 8. Coordinate Federal agencies ongoing collaborative efforts**
- 9. Serve as a forum for inter-agency problem solving**
- 10. Engage and coordinate on other Federal interagency efforts with a nexus to floodplain management**

Recent Activities of the FIFM-TF

- **Alignment of the Federal agencies**
 - **Coordination Activities**
 - **Federal Flood Policy Analysis**
- **Guidance for Federal agencies on unwise use of the floodplain**

Recent Coordination Activities

- **FIFM-TF member agencies identified program opportunities to increase federal interagency coordination and collaboration**
- **Examples of some of these initiatives include:**
 - **Joint Memo to address FEMA's requirements in NFIP regulations during planning of USACE FRM projects**
 - **FEMA/USFWS collaborating to digitize CBRA maps**
 - **Agencies collaborating on standards for LiDAR and stream gage data**
 - **USACE/TVA developed working arrangement for NEPA reviews along the Tennessee River and tributaries**

Federal Flood Policy Analysis

- **Assess impacts and barriers of Federal programs with regard to achieving the goals of floodplain management**
- **FIFM-TF commissioned a study to review 69 Federal programs**
 - **Determine how Federal programs support or interfere with sound floodplain management**
 - **Results of investigation still being reviewed and considered by FIFM-TF**
 - **FIFM-TF will consider set of recommendations for policy changes or other Federal actions**

Study Recommendation

- **Support the Silver Jackets Program**
 - **FIFM-TF agencies recognize the contributions to FRM made by these state-led interagency teams**
 - **FIFM-TF co-chairs have signed letter endorsing and supporting Silver Jackets concept**
 - **Joint letter requested each agency provide POC to coordinate agency efforts with Silver Jackets teams**
 - **Intent to ensure that full resources of the Federal Government are available to Silver Jackets teams**

Study Recommendation

- **Be a forum for inter-agency problem solving and alignment on current and emerging issues and opportunities**
- **Increase efforts!**
 - **Nationally-significant issues or opportunities**
 - **Use the FIFM-TF to help resolve**
 - **Silver Jackets teams have significant role to help resolve and/or elevate inter-agency issues**

Unwise Use of Floodplains Guidance For Federal Agencies

Regulations, programs, policies, or practices may be considered an *unwise use of the floodplain*, if such actions are:

- **Inconsistent with the provisions of the E.O. 11988 and associated federal guidance;**
- **Unnecessarily increases or transfers flood risk geographically, governmentally, socioeconomically, or generationally;**
- **Fails to consider a systems approach;**
- **Disproportionately affects minority, low-income, or vulnerable populations;**
- **Fails to consider relevant current, future, and potential economic, environmental, and social risks, costs, impacts, and benefits**

Potential uses for the Unwise Use guidance

- **Revision of Principals and Guidelines**
- **Development of corresponding individual agency guidance**
- **Future activities where a consolidated Federal perspective may add value**

Discussion Questions

- 1. What is appropriate communication forum between the various levels of government? How would you like to communicate information to the Federal government?**
- 2. What are barriers and opportunities (local, state, Federal) to sound flood risk management?**

Requested Input

- If you have any questions or further comments for the Task Force, please do not hesitate to contact:
 - Stephanie Bray
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Thank you very much!